

The invention claimed is:

1. A method of providing funeral related services, comprising:
 - meeting with family members of the decedent during a planning session at a funeral home;
 - showing the family an audio-visual work, at least the first portion of which is substantially free of product information;
 - collecting information about the deceased from the family members;
 - utilizing at least some of the information to create a first video having text describing events in the life of the deceased;
 - utilizing at least some of the information to create a second video that is substantially shorter than the first video and includes limited text describing events in the life of the deceased.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein:
 - the first video has a length of about eight to twelve minutes.
3. The method of claim 2, including:
 - providing a video screen during visitation at a funeral home;
 - displaying the first video during visitation.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein:
 - the second video has a length of about three to four minutes and is shown during a memorial service.
5. The method of claim 1, including:
 - providing a funeral home website; and
 - placing at least some of the information about the deceased on the website.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein:

the website includes an area at which individuals can enter information concerning the deceased from a remote location by utilizing a global computer network.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein:

the website includes a plurality of memorials, each of which contains information concerning a single decedent, and also includes a security feature permitting only authorized personnel to gain access to the memorials to place at least some of the personal information and photographs of the deceased at the memorial on the website.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein:

the personal information and photographs of the deceased are collected at the funeral home and transmitted electronically to processing center where individuals who are not employees of the funeral home create the first and second videos.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein:

the audio-visual work includes information concerning the costs of packages of funeral products; and including:

providing funeral-related products to the family.

10. A method of selling funeral home products, comprising:

meeting with family members of the decedent at a funeral home for a planning conference;

showing the family members a video presentation; then:

asking the family members questions concerning the life of the decedent to gather facts concerning the life of the decedent; then:

presenting the family members with price information concerning products to be used for the funeral;

providing the family members with selected products;

create a visual work including images of the decedent;

showing the visual work on a display screen during visitation at the funeral home.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein:
the display screen is positioned in the same room as a casket during visitation.
12. The method of claim 10, including:
providing a processing facility that is remote from the funeral home;
electronically transmitting information concerning the life of the decedent from the funeral home to the processing facility; then:
creating the visual work at the processing facility in an electronic format; then:
electronically transmitting the visual work from the processing facility to the funeral home.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein:
the visual work is transferred to a mass storage device at the funeral home.
14. The method of claim 13, including:
creating an internet accessible website;
providing a screen on the website to permit remote users to post information concerning the decedent on the website.
15. The method of claim 14, including:
providing a kiosk with at least one computer connected to the internet;
positioning the kiosk in the funeral home during visitation so visitors can post information concerning the decedent on the website.
16. A method of selling funeral home products, comprising:
meeting with family members of the decedent at a funeral home for a planning conference;
showing the family members a video presentation; then:
asking the family members questions concerning the life of the decedent to gather facts concerning the life of the decedent; then:

presenting the family members with price information concerning products to be used for the funeral;

providing the family members with selected products;
create a visual work including images of the decedent;
showing the visual work on a display screen during a memorial service for the decedent.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein:

the visual work is shown on a projection screen at the memorial service.

18. The method of claim 16, including:

providing a processing facility that is remote from the funeral home;
electronically transmitting information concerning the life of the decedent from the funeral home to the processing facility; then:
creating the visual work at the processing facility in an electronic format; then:
electronically transmitting the visual work from the processing facility to the funeral home.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein:

the visual work comprises a first visual work having a length of about three to four minutes; and including:
creating a second visual work at the processing facility that is substantially longer than the first;
electronically transmitting the second visual work from the processing facility to the funeral home;
providing at least one visitation time period for visitation at the funeral home;
displaying the second visual work during the visitation time period.